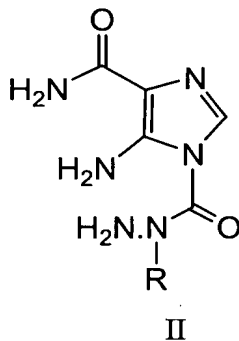


In re Application of: Shen-Chen Kuo  
Serial No.: 10/050,768  
Filed: JANUARY 16, 2002

wherein R is an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula II



wherein R is described above, with an oxidation/cyclization agent in the presence of an iodide compound, in an inert organic solvent, under an inert atmosphere and at a temperature, wherein said iodide is soluble in said inert organic solvent, with the proviso that when said oxidation/cyclization agent is not an iodide, the iodide compound itself is the oxidation/cyclization agent.

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16. (amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula II:

